

18. In the meantime, it will be necessary to authorise the start of the Dockyard pre-planning work, ^{NOW} bearing in mind the risk ^{of} that news of our intentions ^W could leak before the planned publication [?] date of 1 January. *

19. The alternative is to allow DREADNOUGHT to remain at Rosyth ^{dump site license? runs out?} for a further year. There is no difficulty about this in principle, but it does convey the ^{correct} impression that the MOD has no disposal policy. On the other hand, what we are seeking to agree is a policy for all our nuclear submarines in the future, and the advantages of disposing of a single submarine now have to be weighed up against the need to obtain the correct policy for all our vessels in the longer term. *

20. I should welcome your views.

MINISTER (DP)

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